



SMALLBURGH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
For the Year 1938.

SECTION A.

Area of District in acres ...	70,017
Population (1931 Census) ...	15,690
Population (1938, estimated) ...	15,780
Structurally separate dwellings (1931 Census)—Occupied	4,376
Unoccupied	433
Rateable Value, £49,699.	
Penny Rate (estimated) £228 5s. 0d.	

LIVE BIRTHS	{	TOTAL.	M.	F.
		Legitimate 202	109	93
		Illegitimate 11	5	6
		Total 213	114	99

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 13.49.

STILL BIRTHS	{	Legitimate 6	4	2
		Illegitimate —	—	—
		Total 6	4	2

STILL BIRTH RATE for 1,000 total births, 25.97.

DEATHS	211	116	95
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DEATH RATE per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 13.33.

Deaths from PUERPERAL SEPSIS :—Nil. RATE per 1,000 live and still births :—4.57.

Deaths from other PUERPERAL CAUSES :—1	
Total 1	

Deaths of INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE :—			
Legitimate 6	4	2	
Illegitimate —	—	—	
Total 6	4	2	

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS under 1 year of age :—	
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births ...	28.17
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	29.70

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	35
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	2

S.D. 55.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal
Death-rates, and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases
in the year 1938.

England and Wales, London.
126 Great Towns and 148
Smaller Towns.

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

	England and Wales	126 County Boro's. and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County.
Rates per 1,000 Population.				
BIRTHS—				
Live	15.1	15.0	15.4	13.4
Still	0.60	0.65	0.60	0.48
DEATHS—				
All Causes	11.6	11.7	11.0	11.4
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Small-pox	0.00	—	0.00	—
Measles	0.04	0.05	0.03	0.06
Scarlet Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Whooping Cough	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Diphtheria	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.05
Influenza	0.11	0.10	0.11	0.06
NOTIFICATIONS—				
Small-pox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Scarlet Fever	2.41	2.60	2.58	2.05
Diphtheria	1.58	1.85	1.53	1.90
Enteric Fever	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.05
Erysipelas	0.40	0.46	0.39	0.46
Pneumonia	1.10	1.28	0.98	0.98
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
Deaths under 1 year of age	53	57	51	57
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	5.5	7.8	3.6	13.1
MATERNAL MORTALITY—				
Puerperal Sepsis	0.89	Not avail-able		
Others	2.19			
Total	3.08			
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still).				
MATERNAL MORTALITY—				
Puerperal Sepsis	0.86	Not avail-able		
Others	2.11			
Total	2.97			
NOTIFICATIONS—				
Puerperal Fever	14.42	18.03	12.51	3.53
Puerperal Pyrexia				15.46

SECTION B.**PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE DISTRICT.**

D. G. SHIELDS, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.
A. L. TAUNTON, C.R.S.I., SANITARY INSPECTOR.
H. J. KIRK, ASSISTANT SANITARY INSPECTOR.

LABORATORY FACILITIES. Norfolk County Laboratory.

AMBULANCE SERVICES are obtained from the British Red Cross Society at Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, North Walsham, and Great Yarmouth Hospital.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

- District Nurses of Norfolk Nursing Federation.
- Private hire in infectious diseases.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES. None in District.

HOSPITALS. Norfolk and Norwich, Jenny Lind (children), Great Yarmouth and North Walsham Hospitals, and Coltishall Nursing Home all take cases from the area. The County Isolation Hospital was opened during the year, and has proved of valuable assistance in the control of infectious cases.

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**1. WATER SUPPLIES.**

- The water supplies have been ample and sufficient for domestic purposes during the past year and the quality has been good. In the parish of Horsey where sea-flooding took place, the wells are still polluted to a certain degree with salt, but it is anticipated that these will improve in due course. Fifty-nine samples of well water were submitted to the Public Analyst, and good results were received in respect of forty-three samples. Of the remaining sixteen—ten of which were from wells at Horsey—action was immediately taken to have the wells closed and arrangements were made for pure supplies to be used. Three of these wells were again sampled at a later date after cleansing of the well and surroundings, and the water was passed as satisfactory.

Stalham. Difficulty was experienced in sinking the new borehole in this parish but this has now been completed and the Council have been assured that there is a pure supply. The depth of the borehole is four hundred feet, the rest water level in the bore is twenty-one feet, and the rest level during pumping is one hundred and seventy-seven feet. Arrangements have been made for the starting of pipe-laying and erection of storage tank, and it is believed that the scheme will be in operation by the end of August of next year.

From the public health point of view the Council and their officials will be relieved of much anxiety when this scheme is in operation.

I am hoping that a water supply scheme will shortly be provided for the parish of Hoveton.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Difficulty has been experienced in the parish of Hoveton during the past year, owing to the absence of suitable drainage facilities. This parish, which has a normal population of approximately 1,180 inhabitants and a summer population of approximately 1,580 inhabitants, is mostly built-up, has a large shopping centre, and is rapidly becoming urban in character. Unfortunately a large extent of the built-up area is situated on low-lying land adjacent to the River Bure, and with the present methods of drainage, pollution of this river is undoubtedly taking place. I am of the opinion that having regard to the fact that many of the roads are not as yet properly constructed and made up, it would be advisable to take advantage of this state of affairs and provide a proper system of sewerage disposal.

The Sanitary Inspector informs me that the Stalham drains and sewers have been kept clear and reasonably clean. Although complaints have been received, no serious nuisance or danger to public health has been caused.

As the Council is aware, a fair amount of building has taken place in some coastal parishes during the past few years, resulting in a large influx of summer visitors, and I would like the Council to consider if at some future date a combined system of sewerage could be provided for this area, with possibly an outfall into the sea.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

It is known that a certain amount of pollution is taking place especially in the summer season when the holiday craft are in use, but all reasonable steps have been taken to minimise this pollution. The boat owners have been most helpful by providing storage facilities for refuse on the boats and arranging for the collection and disposal of this refuse. One complaint was received concerning a stagnant water dyke at Potter Heigham and this was dealt with immediately and the nuisance abated.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The closet accommodation in this area is sufficient and no complaints have been received. It has been noticed that the majority of the new dwellings recently constructed have been provided with chemical closets, and where used according to the maker's instructions these closets are preferable to the old fashioned earth closet.

During the year fifteen earth closets were reconstructed and improved and four earth closets were converted to water closets. One vault type closet was found during an inspection and this was converted to a pail closet.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

No scheme for the collection of refuse and nightsoil has yet been provided for the parish of Horning. Scavenging schemes are in operation in the parishes of Hoveton and Stalham and they are working satisfactorily. During the year suitable places have been found for the disposal of day refuse, and other arrangements have been made for the disposal of nightsoil.

All the vehicles used for the collection of refuse and nightsoil are provided by the Council, and are of a suitable type. These vehicles are horse drawn, the horses being provided by the contractors.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Regular inspection of the area is carried out by myself, the sanitary inspector, and his assistant. I still feel that much might be done by small improvements to the cottages to encourage and retain the right type of rural worker so necessary for this agricultural area.

(iv) SHOPS AND OFFICES.

A survey has been carried out of the shops and offices in this area. With the exception of Hoveton, Horning, and Stalham there are few shops or offices, the parishes being very rural and isolated in character. It is the practice in the rural districts to close at noon for the lunch hour and the employees then go to their adjacent homes for meals. In general the shops and offices are of modern construction, well ventilated and possessing suitable and sufficient sanitary accommodation and washing facilities for the persons employed.

(v) **CAMPING SITES.**

1. The number of sites which were used for camping purposes during 1938 was 14.
2. The number of camping sites in respect of which licences have been issued by the local authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, was 9.
3. The estimated number of campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season, 1938, was approximately 320.

(It is estimated that this number will be greatly exceeded in the coming year).

These camps have been kept under constant and thorough supervision by the Sanitary Inspector and myself.

(vi) **SMOKE ABATEMENT.**

A further complaint of smoke nuisance caused by fish frying at Horning was received. The Sanitary Inspector found that it was not actually a smoke nuisance but was caused by smuts coming from the chimney in large quantities, due to poor fuel being used. This nuisance was abated.

(vii) **SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.**

There are no swimming baths or pools in this area.

(viii) **ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.**

- (1) The number of (a) Council Houses, (b) other houses: (i) found to be infested, (ii) disinfested—Nil.
- (2) The method to be employed should any house be infested would be by spraying under pressure with a solution of formalin.
- (3) Before removing a tenant into a council house the premises and effects of the tenant are inspected by the Sanitary Inspector for evidence of infestation. In previous years no difficulty has been experienced by the Sanitary Inspector in freeing the house of vermin.

Health Visitors, District Nurses and the Council's rent collector have instructions to report to the local authority any cases of infestation.

4. SCHOOLS.

38 inspections of schools have been carried out during the past year and the conditions were found to be reasonably good. The County Education Committee is carrying out the re-organization of the elementary schools and central schools are being erected in certain parishes of this area.

SECTION D. HOUSING.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	901
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	780
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations	...	...	...	364
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	477
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	19
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	81

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	...	72
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a) **PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10, and 16 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.**

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	2
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit by the owners after service of formal notices	...	...	...	Nil

(b) **PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.**

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	...	...	Nil

(c) **PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11 and 13 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.**

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	7
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	5

(d) **PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.**

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Number determined, the tenement or room having been made fit	...	...	...	Nil

SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) **MILK SUPPLY.**

The total number of Cowkeepers, Dairymen and Retailers is 166.

Inspections of Cowkeepers	...	...	...	241
Inspections of Dairymen	...	...	...	134
Inspections of Retailers	...	...	...	109

I very much appreciate the co-operation of the Milk Marketing Board which has done so much to improve the quality of milk produced, and the Sanitary Inspector reports that the visits made to producers by the Board's representatives have had good results

The County Medical Officer and his officers have also been most helpful in this matter and the producers have informed me that they are pleased to have his expert advice on their methods and premises.

(b) **MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.**

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The number of slaughterhouses is as follows:—

Registered	...	...	...	...	19
Licensed	...	...	...	...	7
					<hr/> 26

No complaints regarding the condition of any slaughterhouse or butchers' shops have been received, and it has been found during inspections that these have been kept in good order and reasonably clean. Generally speaking the slaughterhouses and shops are well ventilated with suitable drainage and efficient floors.

The number of licensed slaughtermen is now 44.

Inspections of slaughterhouses during the past year were 222.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs
Number killed (approx.)	1360	22	36	2848	1800
Number inspected	572	16	11	901	1263
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	1	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3	—	—	2	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	$\frac{1}{2}\%$	6%	—	$\frac{1}{4}\%$	$\frac{1}{8}\%$
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	5	—	—	—	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	1%	—	—	—	$\frac{1}{8}\%$

KNACKERS' YARDS.—Nil.

(c) **ADULTERATION OF FOODS (INSPECTION and ANALYSIS).**

The duties in connection with this are carried out by the Norfolk County Council.

(d) **CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.**

This is carried out by the Norfolk County Council.

(e) **SHELL-FISH (MOLLUSCAN).**

There are no shell-fish beds or layings in this area. At varying periods crabs are caught off the coast in small quantities and retailed to persons in the adjacent villages.

BYE-LAWS RELATING TO HOUSES.

The Council have the following bye-laws in force:

Tents, Vans and Sheds approved 9th October, 1936.

New Buildings and Certain Matters in connection with Existing Buildings approved 9th October, 1936.

The Council have under consideration the adoption of the new Model Series of Byelaws and a draft has been sent to the Ministry of Health.

NUISANCES.

The number of nuisances reported to the Medical Officer of Health or Sanitary Inspector was 73, and these were as follows.

Broken or blocked drains ...	...	...	...	5
Cesspools requiring cleansing	...	...	...	9
Dampness in (a) External walls	...	...	...	14
(b) Internal walls	...	...	...	7
Defective gutters and down spouts	...	...	...	11
„ thatched roofs	...	...	...	5
„ tiled roofs	...	...	...	7
Overcrowding (alleged)	...	...	...	8
Windows in poor state of repair or not made to open	...	...	...	7

In each case the nuisances were investigated and appropriate action taken.

OVERCROWDING.

Cases of alleged overcrowding have been reported to the local authority during the past. At first sight these have appeared to be bad cases, but when the living rooms are taken into account in accordance with the Act, it has been found that these are not cases of overcrowding.

HOUSING RETURN FOR THE YEAR, 1938.

The number of new dwelling-houses erected during the year with State assistance under the Housing Acts, is as follows:—

(a) By the Local Authority
Cottages.

Five bedroom	...	...	...	...	9
Four bedroom	...	...	...	...	13
Three bedroom	...	...	...	...	63
Two bedroom	...	...	...	...	3
Bungalows	...	...	...	...	6

Total 94

(b) By private enterprise Nil

PARISHES IN WHICH NEW HOUSES HAVE BEEN ERECTED DURING 1938.

(a) By the Local Authority

Parish	Number
Felmingham	6
Happisburgh	14
Hickling	6
Hoveton	24
Ludham	12
Sloley	4
Stalham	16
Trunch	4
Tunstead	4
Witton	4
Total	94

(b) By other bodies or persons

Parish	Number
Bacton	5
Barton Turf	1
Happisburgh	12
Hickling	2
Horning	5
Hoveton	5
Lessingham	9
Ludham	1
Neatishead	1
Palling	2
Potter Heigham	4
Scottow	2
Skeyton	1
Smallburgh	1
Stalham	3
Sutton	1
Swafeld	2
Trunch	2
Tunstead	1

Total 60

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACT, 1926.

Number of cottages reconstructed during the year	...	...	3
Total number of cottages reconstructed to date	...	...	94

PARISHES WHERE COTTAGES HAVE BEEN RECONSTRUCTED UNDER THIS ACT.

Catfield	...	1	East Ruston	...	1
Sloley	...	1			

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED UNDER THIS ACT.

Parish	Number of Houses	Purpose of Application	Decision of District Council
Catfield	1	One house to be converted to three	Grant of £200 offered and accepted
Catfield	1	To be converted into two houses	Grant of £180 offered but refused
Catfield	2	To be converted into bungalow	Grant of £90 offered and accepted
East Ruston	1	Grant for reconditioning	Grant of £70 offered and accepted
Potter Heigham	1	do.	Grant of £90 offered but refused
Sloley	2	do.	Grant of £180 offered and accepted

Applications for assistance under this Act are still being invited by the local authority who have done everything in their power to induce owners to take advantage of the generous assistance offered.

FACTORIES (Factories Act, 1937).

A general inspection was carried out of all factories in accordance with a circular issued by the Home Office, to ensure that they complied with the new Factories Act which came into operation on the 1st July, 1938. A high standard of cleanliness is enforced and special attention is paid to sanitary accommodation. During the past year 87 inspections were made by myself and the Sanitary Inspector, and it was noticed that minor improvements suggested to the owners at previous inspections, had been carried out.

INSPECTIONS OF FACTORIES.

Factories	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
	87	Nil	Nil

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES

	Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness	7	7
Insufficient closet accommodation	1	1

BAKEHOUSES.

The number of bakehouses in the area is nine and these are all of brick and tile construction, and in fair condition.

There are no underground or semi-underground bakehouses.

Two complaints were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories with reference to whitening of bakehouses and in these cases the occupiers were seen and the bakehouses cleansed and whitened. Ninety-one inspections were made during the year.

DISINFECTION.

This is carried out by spraying and formaldehyde lamps, and in all cases has been satisfactory. Disinfections were as follows:

Following cases of fever	...	...	...	29 rooms
After death from cancer	...	...	...	7 rooms
After other deaths	...	...	...	6 rooms
Verminous rooms and other cases	...	...	...	14 rooms
Total	...	...	...	56 rooms

TENTS AND VANS.

Including van dwellers who travel with the fairs a total of 37 families of van dwellers have been reported in the district and in 21 cases inspection was made and particulars noted of the families. In most cases it is impossible to verify the information obtained although I have grave doubts as to the accuracy of this information. No case of infectious disease has been notified and no nuisance has been reported by these van dwellers.

SECTION F.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Twenty-five cases of infectious disease (other than tuberculosis) were notified during 1938. They were:

	Total	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	10	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria ...	1	1	"
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	3	2	"
Pneumonia ...	7	3	"
Erysipelas ...	2	Nil	"
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	1	"
Poliomyelitis ...	1	1	"
	<hr/> 25	<hr/> 8	<hr/> —

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION SCHEME.

This scheme came into operation during the year, and its advantages are now available to all who wish to make use of them. The purpose of the scheme is to offer free immunisation against diphtheria to all children of pre-school age and to other persons of any age who may desire it and who are not able to pay the cost.

The treatment consists of two injections, at fourteen days' interval, of alum-precipitated toxoid in doses of 0.2 cc. and 0.5 cc. No Schick-testing is employed. Although the actual work of immunisation is carried out by private practitioners, the scheme is under the control of the M.O.H. Persons desiring to take advantage of the scheme, either for themselves or for their children, should make application to the Clerk of the Council, who will satisfy himself as to their eligibility and enquire the name of their own doctor or the practitioner whom they wish to attend them; the Clerk then communicates with the practitioner in question (provided that the latter's name is included among those who have agreed to operate the scheme) and supplies him with the necessary toxoid. By this means it is possible to keep an accurate record of the cases immunised.

The fees payable to medical practitioners for this work are:

- (a) for attendance on patient at surgery ... 2s. 6d. per dose
 - (b) for attendance at patient's home ... 5s. 0d. per dose
- (the Council to be responsible for the payment of 2s. 6d., the balance to be borne by the patient).

It must be emphasised that the public should not wait for the outbreak of an epidemic of diphtheria before applying for immunisation, since the protection afforded by this treatment does not develop until some months after the injections. It is believed, however, that the protection lasts throughout childhood and possibly for life.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases during 1938.						Deaths during 1938.				
Aged		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Males	Females	Non-Respiratory		Totals
		Males	Females	Males	Females			Males	Females	
under 1		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 1 to 5		—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 5 to 15		—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
" 15 to 25		1	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	1
" 25 to 35		2	1	1	—	2	1	—	—	3
" 35 to 45		1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
" 45 to 55		2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
" 55 to 65		—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
" over 65		—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Total		6	3	6	4	5	3	—	—	8

Of the eight deaths recorded from tuberculosis, six were cases which had previously been notified as suffering from tuberculosis.

GENERAL.

During the critical period which developed towards the end of the year, the work of this department was considerably increased by the demands of the Air Raid Precautions scheme; but I am glad to say that this was undertaken as a contribution to the National Service effort, and I have not been able to find any evidence of public health work being neglected in favour of A.R.P.

In the event of a national emergency developing, the complications which would arise from a public health point of view would be many and serious; one need only mention the possibility of a great influx of population combined with a reduction in the number of medical practitioners available to care for the civil population. This and other problems are receiving attention and being anticipated as far as possible.

D. G. SHIELDS,
Medical Officer of Health.
A. L. TAUNTON,
Sanitary Inspector.